

Anthony dollar headed for top news spot

By Roger Boye

● Without a doubt, the new Susan B Anthony dollar should steal the show as the numismatic event of 1979. More than a half-billion of the coins are scheduled to be put into circulation on or about July 1, and half as many more before year's end.

Meanwhile, Treasury Department executives plan to launch a publicity campaign next year to "sell" the new dollar to the American consumer. And they recently broke tradition by ordering that the "P" mint mark be placed on Anthony

coins made at the Philadelphia Mint. (Almost all United States coins produced in Philadelphia have not carried mint marks.)

As most collectors know, the Anthony dollar—the first general-circulating coin to carry the portrait of a "real" woman — will be just slightly larger than a quarter, and only one-third as heavy as the present Eisenhower dollar. To be made of the familiar cupronickel clad material, the coin will have a distinctive 11-sided inner border.

● With the expected hoopla over the Anthony coin, noncollectors may not even notice the

death of the circulating Eisenhower dollar. That would be no surprise, since the coin is seldom used, except in Nevada casino machines.

During 1978, the Eisenhower dollar—first produced in 1971—became an increasingly popular item with collectors. For example, last September, dealers paid \$3.50 for an uncirculated 1972-S Eisenhower dollar. Two months later, the buying price had doubled.

Ike dollar fans also have another consolation: The U.S. Mint may continue to produce the coin in 1979, but for collectors, not for circulation.